

REMARKS

New Title:

The title has been amended to more accurately describe the present invention.

New Abstract:

A new abstract is presented herein to better reflect the subject matter of this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim to Priority:

The "cross reference to related applications" section has been amended in this document to indicate that this application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/532,983 (the parent application). This section, as amended, also appropriately claims the benefit of the provisional application to which the parent application claims priority.

Changes to the Claims:

In this application, claims 1-16 from the parent application are canceled, and new claims 17-27 have been entered. New claims 17-27 are method claims which include limitations that substantially correspond to the limitations included in allowed claims 1-16 in the parent application. The new claims are supported both by claims 1-16 and by the specification of the parent application. No new matter has been added.

Patentability of the New Claims:

The reasons for allowance in the parent case (hereafter, the "reasons for allowance") are attached hereto as "Exhibit A." The reasons for allowance indicate that the prior art does not "teach applicant's *mixer* that provides a *summed conference signal*" (emphasis in original). New claim 17 includes limitations substantially corresponding to claim 1 in the parent application and recites the limitation "providing a summed conference signal from said summed received digitized audio signals using an audio conference mixer" (emphasis added). Thus, claim 17 recites limitations that the Examiner indicated made claim 1 in the parent application patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants contend that new

claim 17 is patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 1 in the parent application.

The reasons for allowance indicate that limitations, recited in canceled claims 2 and 10 from the parent application, pertaining to sending a summed conference signal between digital signal processors, are not taught by the prior art. New claims 18 and 23 recite limitations substantially corresponding to those recited in canceled claims 2 and 10, respectively, from the parent application, which limitations recite sending a summed conference signal between digital signal processors. Accordingly, Applicants assert that new claims 18 and 23 are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 2 and 10 in the parent application.

Claims 19-22 depend from claim 18, claims 24-27 depend from claim 23, and the dependent claims inherit all the limitations of their respective independent claims. Thus, claims 19-22 and 24-27 are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as their respective independent claims. Therefore, new claims 17-27 are patentable over the prior art.

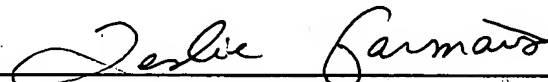
Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the instant case be passed to issue. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

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